# The Wobbly Oscillator

## Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Association

## October 2025 Volume 55 Number 10

Hams Who Serve

**Meeting October 14th**

**Busch Funeral Home Community Room**

**Basic Antenna Applications**

# From the Prez

# Toby, WT8O

## VOTE!

Congress has reintroduced the ***Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act*** in an effort to prevent restrictive Home Owners Association rules prohibiting the installation of amateur radio antennas. The ARRL makes it easy for members, and all amateurs, to send a letter to their representatives and senators by going to **https://www.arrl.org/HOA** and entering their call sign and hitting the "submit" button.

The above link makes it possible to send a prewritten letter urging your congressperson to vote for the passage of both of the bipartisan bills - H.R. 1094 in the House and S. 459 in the Senate. The process is simple and only takes a few seconds. The link also provides much more detailed information.

So please consider letting the ARRL assist you in supporting these two bills and perhaps letting other amateurs who are not CARS members be aware of the process.

I have always been perturbed that many HOAs do not allow hams to have a small vertical VHF antenna or a hardly noticeable wire HF antenna yet permit satellite TV companies the freedom to clutter rooftops with obnoxious dish antennas. Money talks! Now it's our turn to make things happen rather than let things happen.

## October Elmering Session - Antennas

We will have our second Elmering session at the October meeting on basic antennas geared for new hams, and hopefully containing information useful to veteran amateurs as well. The purpose will be to enhance the signal and

reception of individual stations.

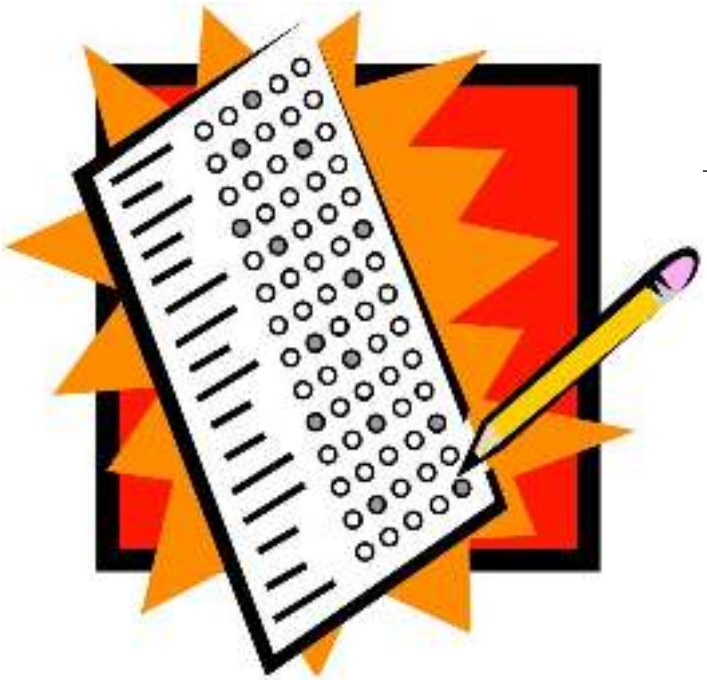
David, AC8TN, and I have been formulating the presentation, and gathering thoughts from experienced hams. I welcome any questions, suggestions, or ideas from readers in the next two weeks that would help develop the program.

## Nominations for Officers

At the October meeting we will be nominating officers and even year Board members for the November elections. This is our annual opportunity to incorporate new people and fresh ideas into the club's leadership team.

We also encourage self-nominations by individuals wishing to step up and participate. So please consider the possibility of nominating a fellow member or yourself to be an officer or Board member

Toby, WT8O



**VE Session Results**
**September 14th**

The September VE session was held Sunday, September 14th at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center in Independence.

Margaret Jones, KF8EYZ passed the Tech exam.

Douglas Barstow, KE8WBE upgraded to General.

Stephen Zeller, KF8EBB upgraded to General.

VEs present for the session were:

George Pindroh, K8KR

Roger Boehnlein, N8TCP

Gary Dewey, NI8Z

Matt Neely, NU8H

David Korow, AC8TN

Metro Sinko, W8MET

## November VE Session

The next VE testing session will be held **Sunday, November, 9th,** at 9:15 AM

Testing is at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net

As always, walk-ins are welcome.

No matter what your license class is, or how much time you have available to volunteer, your service would be welcome in a number of ways this year! Just be sure to ask any CARS officer or active public service member in our scheduled Monthly Club meetings for current volunteer information.

***Special VE sessions are also be scheduled at the completion of the CARS licensing classes. Watch the Wobbly Oscillator and the CARS website for additional information about classes and special VE sessions, or contact Metro, W8MET.***

# For Sale

Contact Toby, WT8O, wt8o@att.net or 440-525-6109, to purchase or questions. All reasonable offers considered (Images may be representative of the actual item being offered for sale.).

Left and below: 4ft by 6ft by 18 in. shelving (shown assembled and knocked down).

Above: strapping tools and strapping.

## Next CARS Meeting

## Tuesday, October 14 - 7:30 PM

## Busch Community Room 7501 Ridge Rd. - Parma

## Toby, WT8O

### Basic Antenna Applications

The October meeting marks the official start of a CARS mentoring program to address issues members have expressed surrounding setting up a station, operating, and other general topics. While the initial intent was to help new hams get set up and on the air, participation and feedback indicate interest across the board among newly licensed hams, old hands, and some members who are returning to the hobby or reactivating their interest in ham radio. As usual, the member meetings serve as an opportunity for camaraderie and sharing. All members (and guests) are invited to join in and share their experiences and knowledge and just enjoy time with fellow members.

**See Website for Details - www.2cars.org**

# September Meeting Minutes

LOCATION - The meeting was held on September 9th at the Busch Funeral Home, located on Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio.

CALLED TO ORDER - President Toby Kolman, WT8O, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTIONS - Those present introduced themselves. The meeting had 26 attendees, including five guests.

MEETING MINUTES - The August minutes, as published in the September issue of the *Wobbly Oscillator* (*WO*), were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, gave an update on the club's finances. No issues were reported.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Toby Kolman, WT8O, reported the following:

- Welcome guests
- Parking at Busch
- Mark, WJ8WM, shared an update on the Lorain lighthouse activation on Saturday, 8/16. Four members came out for the activation. It was a beautiful day and a fun time. They made around 30-40 contacts. Mark shared it's great to be in a club where members want to participate and do activities.
- John, NU8Y, gave an update on the Ohio State Parks on the Air event held September 9th. Bob, K8RGI, and John both participated. Bob was on South Bass Island. John was at East Harbor State Park. It was a fun time event, and the first time John set up a remote station. It went well, and John made 36 contacts.
- Metro, W8MET, and his wife Linda, N8LRS, will be running a station for the POW/MIA event September 19th through the 21st to honor veterans from the past and today. This is the 10th year they are participating. They will be operating using the callsign K4MIA/8 and will be operating on 40m SSB.

VP REPORT - John Dernar, NU8Y, reported the following:

- There was a multi-club meet and greet last Sunday. About 50 folks attended. It was a great opportunity to meet some new hams.
- CARS business cards - John printed some business cards to help promote the club. He left some samples on the sign-in table for people to look at. Please share any feedback you have on them with him.
- CARS iron-on logos - Previously, we explored purchasing clothes with our logo on them; however, this has proven more challenging than expected. The club is now looking at ordering some iron-on logos so people can apply them at home to clothes of their choice. The current pricing would be $2. Contact John if you are interested.

SECRETARY REPORT - Matt Neely, NU8H, reminded folks to sign in on the sign-in sheet.

PUBLIC SERVICE - Chuck, K8CVM, shared that all CARS members are invited to the local ESG/ARES meetings. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday at 7:00 PM each month, typically at the Helwig Whistle Stop. Visit https://n8esg.org/ for details. The following are upcoming events that need volunteers:
Coast to the Oast - September 13th
Hike and Run at Shaker Nature Center - September 14th
Cleveland Hamfest - September 28th

Just in time for the CARS annual Morse code class, a variety of modern and vintage code keys were being sold at the September meeting.

VE UPDATE: Metro, W8MET, shared that there is a VE session this Sunday.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Joe, KD8BAL, reported that:
This month's presentation is by Chuck Mehozonek, K8CVM, on Radio Mobile, an online tool for VHF/UHF propagation modeling.
The sessions in October and November will be mentoring sessions. October's meeting will be on antennas.

TECH COMMITTEE - Scott, AC8NW, didn't have any updates to share.

OLD BUSINESS - Toby, WT8O, led a discussion on the following:

- The first few mentoring sessions will be held during the October and November meetings. *WO* articles will accompany the presentations. Members shared examples of how they've found mentoring sessions helpful in the past.
- Used equipment will be for sale at the Cleveland Ham Fest, which takes place Sunday, September 28th, 2025, at the Berea Fairgrounds. CARS will have a table at the Ham Fest. The club is also working on an eBay account to help sell items online.

NEW BUSINESS - Toby, WT8O, led a discussion on the following:

- There is a vacancy on our board of directors because John, NU8Y, took over as Vice President. Toby called for nominations to fill this role. Toby nominated Joe, KD8BAL. Matt, NU8H, seconded. No other nominations were received. The members voted Joe in for the role.
- David, AC8TN, reminded folks about the upcoming CW class. The class has a $20 fee. If you are interested, please get in touch with David, AC8TN, or Metro, W8MET.

REFRESHMENT - Thank you to John, NU8Y; Mark Rosewicz, KC8ESG; Matt, NU8H

NEXT MEETING - The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society's next meeting will be held on October 14th at the Busch Funeral Home, located on Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio.

ADJOURNMENT - Toby, WT8O, adjourned the meeting.

50/50 Drawing - Andy, KD8SCV, won the 50/50 drawing.

Submitted by Matt Neely NU8H

Members and guests had plenty of time to chat and check out some of the used gear CARS is helping to sell .

**Radio Mobile Coverage Application**

Chuck, K8CVM discussed the Radio Mobile Coverage Application and how it can help hams model the propagation of their VHF and UHF stations.

The free app is available as an online tool at ww.ve2dbe.com. Hams who wish to use the application will need to create an account. When you go to the site, it initially loads in French. There is an "English" button in the left column. Clicking on that button switches the language to English. From there, go to Radio Mobile Online and start setting up an account. Note that you will need to create a user name and password and there is a mandatory math question to ensure you are not a bot.

Once established, you can use the account to enter the description of your station— transmitter location, frequency, antenna height above ground, output power, etc. The application can then produce a model of the RF propagation based on the factors you entered and terrain and other factors.

One of the powerful tools available on the online application is the ability to define a path and look at how your signal would travel that path. For instance, with your home station data established, you could enter repeater site information or information on another station you wish to establish contact with and the application will show the terrain between the two sites. This can include buildings that could impede your signal, but it may not be able to indicate some factors like vegetation which could have a seasonal effect on the signal path.

Among the examples, Chuck showed the propagation pattern from the Cleveland Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Cuyahoga County EOC. In open areas, such as over Lake Erie, the signal propagation was greater and signals were stronger. Trying to push a signal past downtown buildings or other terrain features clearly showed as areas of low or non-existent propagation patterns. Changing some of the variables, such as raising the transmitter antenna height and/or power produces a different propagation pattern with its own strengths and weaknesses.

Using the Radio Mobile Coverage application can answer questions like, "Why can't the repeater hear me?" and "Will my signal to the repeater improve if I raise my antenna height five feet?"

The full presentation is at: https://n8esg.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2025/05/CCARES-May-20-2025-Presentation.pdf

# October Net Sked

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oct | 1 | WT8O |
| Oct | 8 | KD8ACO |
| Oct | 15 | AC8NW |
| Oct | 22 | KC8ESG |
| Oct | 29 | AC8TN |

**Nets are run every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on:**

**146.820 (PL 110.9)**

**443.825(+) PL Tone 131.8**
**Digital Yaesu Fusion / C4FM**
**Linked to the 146.82 Repeater**

**EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)**

**Allstar Node 47067**

**WIRES X Node 91242-Room 01242**

NOTE: Practice nets are conducted weekly on the CARS repeater. All hams are welcome to participate in the net.

The weekly nets are a good opportunity to hone your skills and meet other hams.

Net control will open the net and ask for "check ins." You can give your callsign, name, and location and simply listen to the rest of the net, or you can join the conversation.

As you become more comfortable, you may want to try acthing as net control.

# CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Analog Repeater

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

AllStar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

WIRES X Node 91242 Room 01242

**********

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.820 Repeater

Brecksville

**********

444.75 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Analog Repeater

Not Linked to Other Repeaters

Shaker Hts.

# Ohio State Parks On the Air: Two Perspectives

## Ohio State Parks On The Air 2025

Bob, K8RGI

The Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) contest was held on Saturday September 6th this year.

The OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:

- To promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system
- To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology
- To promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators.

It is a lot of fun to get out in a natural setting with your radio and see how well you can do at working operators in Ohio's State Parks. The contest hours are from 10 am to 6 pm.

Complete information can be found at https://ospota.org.

(above) NU8Y station at East Harbor
(below) K8RGI and WA8RR at Put-in-Bay

This year my brother Richard, WA8RR, and I set up in a lot across from the airport on Put-in-Bay. Rules of OSPOTA allow operation from anywhere on the island to activate one of the two state parks. Richard activated South Bass Island State Park, and I activated Oak Point State Park. We started at about 7:00pm on Friday night putting up our canopy and separate masts for our antennas.

Saturday we were back at the site at about 7:00am and

## Ohio State Parks On The Air 2025

John - NU8Y

The 18th annual Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) contest was held on Saturday, September 6th. The objective of this contest was to set-up a station at an Ohio state park and contact as many other Ohio state park stations as possible during the 8 hour contest period. There were 91 stations set up at 61 of the 76 state parks. I was set-up at the East Harbor State Park on the Marblehead peninsula of Lake Erie.

The experience was similar to Field Day except that I was there all by myself. I Put up a 40M EFHW antenna on a Harbor Freight 20ft extended flagpole right down the grassy center of small parking lot that was near a park pavilion. A 12V car battery powered the station. I used my trusty IC-7300 radio and had the N3FJP logging software running on my Evolve III student laptop computer. The first few hours I was set up at a small folding table and chair that I had brought along with me, but when the sun started blinding me, I added some coax and moved to a nearby shady picnic table.

My car was only a few feet away and I had sufficient drinks and snacks to hold me over. A few curious folks stopped to see what I was up to and two fellow hams who were staying at the nearby campgrounds paid me a visit.

I managed to log 28 park contacts and a lot of non-park and out of state contacts during the 5 hours that I participated.

proceeded to put up our antennas. Richard used his GRV-5 and I used my inverted-V fan dipole. These antennas gave each of access to all the HF bands. We then installed our equipment in the tent and started the generator. We made several contacts to make sure everything was working.

We went on the air at 10:00am and started to make contacts. In this contest all contacts count as points and the state parks count as multipliers. Richard started on 40 meters and I started on 20 meters. 40 meters was good for contacting the state parks and 20 meters was good for points. There are 76 state parks but only 61 were activated this year. After an hour or so we switched bands and continued to operate. The bands started good but just like last year went dead as we moved into the afternoon.

The weather was very good this year. We didn't have the windy conditions from last year.

The OSPOTA contest is September 12th in 2026. We have already made our reservations for next year.

Bob, K8RGI

I really enjoyed my very first experience of setting up a park station and getting it all to work.

John, NU8Y

Above Left: K8RGI. Above Right: WA8RR)

Below: Station set-up at Put-in-Bay

# Hamfest and CARS

## More to Sell

CARS had plenty of items to sell at the Cleveland Hamfest.  Many items are still available.  If you are looking for gear, contact Toby, WT8O, there could be something for you among the items CARS is selling.

# Honorary Members

**Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society**

**Robert Check, W8GC**

**Elected 2/10/15**

**Thomas Wayne, WB8N**

**Elected 1/10/17**

**Dwaine Modock, K8ME/SK**

**Elected 5/9/17**

**Toby Kolman, WT8O**

**Elected 10/10/17**

**Jerry Smith, NW9H**

**Elected 5/8/18**

**Ron Borkey, K8VJG/SK**

**Elected 5/14/19**

**Ed Stevens, WB8ROK/SK**

**Elected 8/10/21**

**Vince Bak, N8OVW/SK**

**Elected 11/14/23**

**Ron Holas, K8RJH, SK**

**Elected 7//8/25**

# Dues Notice

## Matt, KE8DZV

Your 2025 CARS dues are payable on or before January 31, 2025. If you have already paid THANK YOU.
Dues can be paid in two ways:

- You can mail a check to:

  CARS
  PO Box 31264
  Independence, OH 44131-0264

- Pay in person at any CARS meeting.

Dues are $26.00 per year for regular membership. Each additional family member is $16.00.
If you are 60 yrs. or older, your dues are only $18.00 per year.
CARS will offer assistance to anyone having a hardship.
Please let me know if you have a hardship or know a member who needs help.

## Welcome New Members

There are no new members this month. CARS members are encouraged to invite other hams to participate in CARS meetings and events and to invite them to join CARS. Information on membership is located on the CARS website at: JOIN CARS

## Message from ARRL

As CARS President Toby, WT8O noted in his opening column in this issue of the Wobbly Oscillator, there are two bills before Congress that affect all amateur radio operators. ARRL has issued an appeal to all hams and has created a simple mechanism for each ham to offer support for the bills under consideration. Here is their message:

> ARRL has launched its legislative action campaign to get ALL radio amateurs involved in sending a message to their Congressional representatives that they want to see passage of bills H.R.1094 and S.459, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.
>
> WE NEED YOUR HELP!
>
> NOW is the time for YOU to encourage ALL of your club members to go to **https://www.arrl.org/HOA** to simply enter their call sign and hit the button to send letters on their behalf. It is nearly effortless! **You do not need to be an ARRL member to use the website.** EVERY licensed amateur radio operator is welcome to participate!
> So please also forward this email to other licensed hams you know and ask for their participation.
>
> .

# 2025 CARS Committees, Officers, Board and Trustees

## CARS 2025 Committees

### 50/50

Chair: Andy Evridge, KD8SCV

Member: Joe Ulazewski, KD8BAL

### ARRL Liaison

Chair: John Dernar, NU8Y

### Audio/Video

Chair: Scott Smith, AC8NW

### Audit

Chair: John Dernar, NU8Y

Members: Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS and Toby Kolman, WT8O

### Awards

Co-Chairs: Toby Kolman, WT8O and Mark Moro, WJ8WM

### Field Day

Co-Chairs: Chair: Toby Kolman, WT8O, Assistant Chair: Bob Robbins, K8RGI
Members: David Korow, AC8TN; Andy Evridge, KD8SCV; Chuck Mehozonek, K8CVM, and Mark Moro, WJ8WM

### Hamvention Bus

Chair: Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS

### Historian

Chair: Toby Kolman, WT8O

### Holiday Party, Summer Picnic

Chair: Al Farley, KF8BCC

Member: Mark Moro, WJ8WM

### License Classes

Chair: David Noeth, KD8ACO

Members: Joel Chaney, K8SHB,; Toby Kolman, WT8O

### Media Representative

Chair: Andy Evridge, KD8SCV

### Membership

Chair: Toby Kolman, WT8O

Member: Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

### Net

Chair: Toby Kolman, WT8O

Members: Scott Smith, AC8NW, David Korow, AC8TN, and David Noeth, KD8ACO

### Newsletter

Chair: Perry Trunick, KB8AYQ

Member: Yuri Sivitski, W4YSW

## Programs at Meetings

Chair: Joe Ulaszewski, KD8BAL

Members: Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS and Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

## Public Service

Chair: Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS

Members: Chuck Mehozonek, K8CVM, and Arp Viiberg, K8ARP

## QSL Manager

Chair: Metro Sinko, W8MET

## Quartermaster

Chair: Toby Kolman, WT8O

## Records Custodian

Chair: Terry Pillatt, KB8DTC

## Refreshments - Coffee

Chair: John Dernar, NU8Y

## Refreshments - Donuts

Chair: Matt Neely, NU8H

## Refreshments - Pop

Chair: Mark Rosewicz, KC8ESG

## Scholarship

Chair: Toby Kolman, WT8O

Members: Bob Robbins, K8RGI, Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, and Mark Moro, WJ8WM

## Sunshine (Welfare)

Chair: Andy Evridge, KD8SCV

## Technical

Chair: Scott Smith, AC8NW

Members: Mark Scoville, AD8KE, Terry Pillatt, KB8DTC, Mark Rosewicz, KC8ESG, David Noeth, KD8ACO and Mark Moro, WJ8WM

## VE Exams

Chair: Metro Sinko, W8MET

Members: George Pindroh, K8KR; Fred Freer, K8IG: David Korow, AC8TN, Simpson Huston, N8UZF, Matt Neely, NU8H

## Webmaster/email

Chair: Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

# 2025 Officers

## President

Toby Kolman, WT8O

440-525-6109

wt8o@att.net

## Vice-President

John Dernar, NU8Y

440-237-8872

dern123@sbcglobal.net

## Secretary

Matt Neely, NU8H

216-965-4476

matt@matthewneely.com

## Alternate Secretary:

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

## Treasurer

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

216-337-1540

matt@seagem.me

# CARS 2024 Executive Board

## Board Chair

Mark Moro, WJ8WM

216-496-2871

Alternate: Arp Viiberg, K8ARP

## Even Year Board Members

Scott Smith, AC8NW and Mark Moro, WJ8WM;
Joe Ulaszewski , KD8BAL

## Odd Year Board Members

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS; Mark Rosewicz,
KC8ESG, and Al Farley, KF8BCC

## CARS License Trustees

## K8ZFR Trustee

Toby Kolman, WT8O

## W8BM Trustee

Mark Moro, WJ8WM

## W8HBI Trustee

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, if credit is given to this publication and the author, if known.

All submissions should be emailed to: Perry A Trunick, KB8AYQ at perry@trunick.com